

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful search and the finding of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 4, 13, 18, 22-23 and 25 have been amended. Claims 6-7, 9-12, 15-16, 20-21, 24 and 26-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-5, 8, 13-14, 17-19, 22-23 and 25 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection

Claims 22, 23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 22, 23 and 25 have been amended, which obviates the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,493,742 (“Emer”) in view of Panwar et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,035,374 (“Panwar”).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s characterization of the references; however, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicants amend the claims to include the allowable subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of breadth similar to those of cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7, 16 and 21 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any

intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 1, 13 and 18 have been amended to include the allowable limitations of claims 7, 16 and 21. In addition, claim 22 has been amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 13, 18 and 22, and their dependent claims are now in proper condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emer in view of Venkatasubramanian, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0236816 (“Ven”).

Claims 8 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emer and Panwar as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Rodgers et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0126186 (“Rodgers”).

Claims 5, 8 and 17 depend from one of claims 1 and 13 and thus include all the limitations of their base claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 8 and 17.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.


Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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